Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MOSCOW 09224 271446Z
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C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 9224

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FOR GARRISON FROM MATLOCK

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: OGEN
SUBJECT: OFFICIAL-INFORMAL

1. FLOYD RIGGS, HERTHA HEISS'S DEPUTY IN BEWT/USSR DIVISION AT COMMERCE, TELEPHONED BILL FARRAND LATE FRIDAY AFTERNOON (JUNE 24) OUR TIME TO SEEK COMMERCIAL OFFICE'S ASSISTANCE IN APPROACHING SOVIET FTO AVIAEKSPORT CONCERNING REPORTED ATTEMPTS BY U.S. FIRM, ICX RPT ICX AVIATION, TO PURCHASE YAK-40 AIRFRAMES FOR RE-EQUIPPING IN U.S. AND EVENTUAL SALES IN THIRD COUNTRIES. ACCORDING TO RIGGS, PRESIDENT OF ICX AVIATION, MR. DALE LEWIS, HAS REQUESTED COMMERCE DEPARTMENT ASSISTANCE IN CLARIFYING TO SOVIETS MEANING OF DEPARTMENT'S DIPLOMATIC NOTE TO SOVIET EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON DATED MAY 30 ON SUBJECT OF AIRWORTHINESS AGREEMENT (STATE 126597 REFERS). LEWIS HAS REPORTEDLY BEEN TOLD BY SOVIETS (AVIAEKSPORT) THAT LANGUAGE OF NOTE EFFECTIVELY PRECLUDES POSSIBILITY OF YAK-40 AIRFRAME SALES TO ICX. RIGGS INFORMED FARRAND THAT THAT WAS DEFINITELY NOT RPT NOT INTENTION OF DRAFTERS OF NOTE ON AIRWORTHINESS AGREEMENT AND SOUGHT FARRAND'S EARLY INTERVENTION AT AVIAEKSPORT DURING WEEK OF JUNE 27 TO MAKE THIS POINT CLEAR. RIGGS ALSO MADE HIGHLY DUBIOUS CLAIM THAT ICX DEAL WITH AVIAEKSPORT COULD LEAD TO U.S. EXPORTS OF APPROXIMATELY DOLLARS SIX BILLION RPT BILLION. LONG
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PAGE 02 MOSCOW 09224 271446Z

AND SHORT OF IT IS THAT WE WOULD PREFER TO RECEIVE CABLE EXPLANATION AND INSTRUCTIONS ON THIS MATTER BEFORE PROCEEDING. WE WOULD THEREFORE BE GRATEFUL IF BILL EDGAR OR JIM TREICHEL COULD GET ON THE PHONE WITH RIGGS AND LET HIM KNOW OUR POSITION. INCIDENTALLY, RIGGS SAID THAT ALAN REICH AND, HE THOUGHT, JACK ARMITAGE WERE AWARE OF THIS SITUATION.

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2. RE CHIEF JUSTICE TRIP TO TBILISI, YES EMBASSY WILL SUPPLY
OFFICER TO ACCOMPANY.
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